

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5608

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC DECLARATION

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH NOVEMBER 20, STRONG CONSENSUS WAS THAT ALLIANCE SHOULD MOVE TOWARD COMPLETING ATLANTIC DECLARATION BY THE TIME OF THE DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND THAT A DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 28 SHOULD BE SET FOR GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE U.S., TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. SYG LUNS SUGGESTED DECLARATION MIGHT BE COMPLETED SOON, POSSIBLY PUBLISHED AT NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND THEN SIGNED WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON VISITS EUROPE, WHENEVER THAT MAY BE. WHILE FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE WAS NOT SURE DRAFTING COULD BE COMPLETED BY DATE OF MINISTERIAL, AND HE AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF THE LEVEL AT WHICH DECLARATION WOULD BE SIGNED.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFTING, MOST PERMREPS INDICATED NEED FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM U.S. AT THIS POINT.

4. BELGIAN PERMREP FORCEFULLY CAUTIONED THAT A U.S. CONTRIBUTION WAS IMPORTANT NOW IF WE WERE TO HAVE A COLLECTIVE COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE OF THE FIFTEEN RATHER THAN ONE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FOURTEEN. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT
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U.S. DELAY ON SUBJECT WAS LEADING TO A SITUATION WHERE WE WERE BEGINNING TO SEE A TRANSFER TO THE FIFTEEN OF THE METHODS OF THE NINE, WHICH WOULD NOT BE HEALTHY FOR THE ALLIANCE. DE STAERCKE ALSO BELIEVED PROGRESS ON THE NATO DECLARATION

COULD STIMULATE PROGRESS ON THE EC-9 DECLARATION.

5. DE STAERCKE FELT STRONGLY THAT IF U.S. DELAYED PROGRESS ON NATO DECLARATION FURTHER AND ALLOWED TIME FOR NATIONS TO SUBMIT NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS TO THE FRENCH DRAFT, WE RISKED A TEXT THAT WOULD EITHER BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FRENCH OR DISAPPOINTING TO THOSE NATIONS, LIKE THE DUTCH, WHOSE AMENDMENTS WERE NOT ACCEPTED. IN THIS CONNECTION, NETHERLANDS PERMREP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BE EXPECTED TO RAISE MORE AND MORE ISSUES -- PROBLEMS -- THE LONGER THE MATTER DRAGGED ON.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON DESIRED TEXTUAL IMPROVEMENTS IN REVISED FRENCH TEXT. WE WILL ALSO NEED BY EARLY NEXT WEEK GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON'S CURRENT PREFERENCES ON (1) TIMING FOR COMPLETION OF NATO'S ATLANTIC DECLARATION AND (2) ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY MINISTERS AT DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE WASHINGTON'S THINKING ON LUNS' PROPOSED SEQUENCE (PARA 2 ABOVE) FOR PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION AT NAC MEETING IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWED BY SIGNING AT A LATER DATE.
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